[From the CANADIAN RECORD OF SCIENCE, Vol. II., No. 2, April, 1886.]

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AINOS.

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The great timidity of the Ainos, coupled with an instinctive delicacy with reference to all matters of a personal nature, offers a great obstacle to the acquisition of exact knowledge concerning their physical development. That these feelings are not easy to overcome and often raise an insuperable barrier, has been the experience of nearly if not quite all those who have undertaken a study of them. Many important measurements are thus wanting, but the following determinations may be of some value as contributing to a more exact knowledge of their leading characteristics.

The Ainos, occupying Yezo and the Kuriles, are usually spoken of as the "Hairy Kuriles" in allusion to one of their more prominent characteristics. They constitute that group usually designated as "Yezoines" or "Kurilians," to distinguish them from those of markedly different aspect, occupying the Russian territory of Saghalien, Kamschatka and the lower Amoor district in Siberia.

Among those who have attempted to study the Ainos,

there appears to be a greater diversity of opinion with regard to their hirsuteness, than any other subject concerning them. This has arisen too often from superficial observation; again from second-hand evidence, and yet again from the expression of an unrestrained enthusiasm. "Covered with hair like animals," is the unqualified description which has more than once been applied to this people; while Mr. Griffis as boldly asserts to the contrary, that they are "Not more hairy as to their bodies than many Japanese or other peoples who eschew pantaloons and shirts," and that the term "*Hairy Kuriles* or *Ainos*, is rather the pet phrase of some closet writers than the expression of a fact."[1] It would appear, however, that Mr. Griffis did not have a sufficient number of typical Ainos, upon the examination of whom he could base a reliable opinion, since his studies were confined to the few who were sent to Tokio for education. From my own personal acquaintance with these same men, it was evident that a study of them could lead to no other conclusion than that reached by Mr. Griffis, but unfortunately they were few in number and not types.

Wood[2] remarks that "Esau himself could not have been more hairy than are these Ainos." Again, Mr. B. S. Lyman,[3] for several years geologist to the Kaitakushi, and thus possessing unusual opportunities for the study of these people, says "It was surprising to see how many of them were wholly or partially bald, and though they are reckoned by the Japanese as so very hairy, how many were, naturally, comparatively free from hairs on their faces and bodies." Miss Bird[4] correctly observes that "There is frequently a heavy growth of stiff hair on the chest and limbs." Prof. Wm. Wheeler employed a guide during one of his surveys, of whom he afterwards said to me, "The hair on his back and over the entire chest was long and matted, and reminded me strongly of the fur coating of an animal."

[1] Bull. Amer. Geog. Soc., 1878, No. 2.
[2] Trans. Eth. Soc., New Ser., iv. 34, etc.
[3] Rept. Horace, Capron., p. 390.
[4] Unbeaten Tracks, ii. 10.

My own experience, extending over four years of intimate acquaintance with these people, hundreds of whom were brought under observation, shows that while all these views express a measure of truth, they do not accurately represent the true facts. With reference to the baldness spoken of by Mr. Lyman, it should be pointed out that, while it is a very common occurrence, it is by no means a true physical characteristic, since it arises, in large part at least, from the great prevalence of scalp diseases among the children and youth.

As to the hairiness of the body and limbs, one remarks the most extreme variations. During one of my own expeditions, eighteen Ainos were employed as boatmen. Of these, twelve were exceedingly hairy, more so than I had ever before observed man to be. Of the others, three, formerly students at Tokio, and studied by Mr. Griffis, were quite smooth, and one had a very fair skin. It has repeatedly been brought to my notice that the Yezoines are not more hairy than Europeans, while in many more cases I have observed the exact reverse to be conspicuously true. The conclusion appears justifiable that, the Yezoine in general, is to be regarded as possessing a more than ordinarily hairy body, enough so at least, to make him deserving of the epithet of "Hairy Kurile."

A stranger gains his first impression of the great hairiness of these people from their exceedingly bushy hair and beards. The latter are a general feature of the men, their absence being rather exceptional; but their very bushy growth is doubtless due as much to the fact that the men never shave and seem rarely even to clip their beards, as to any natural excess of growth.

The hair of the head is straight, black and rather coarse. It is never brushed, but is allowed to fall naturally, usually to the base of the neck, being trimmed uniformly to this length all round. There is also a frequent tendency in the hair to stand straight out from the head. The effect of all this upon the stranger is to impress him at once with the uncouth aspect and great hairiness of the people.

We shall see, however, that the Saghalien Ainos present

a striking departure from the rule of hairiness which essentially characterizes the Yezoine; and this would, therefore, rather appear, not as a race characteristic, but as a feature due to the peculiar and widely different conditions of life, dress and exposure to which these people have been subjected.

In stature, the Ainos are much below the average height of Europeans, but their bodies are generally well formed and robust, shoulders square, chests full, and limbs muscular. Accustomed to a forest life, and depending for sustenance upon the product of the chase and fishing, the men are early accustomed to considerable hardship and are soon capable of much endurance. This renders them invaluable as boatmen and as porters, in which latter capacity they will carry very heavy loads over long distances for days at a time. In my journal of an expedition into the interior, I find the following note with reference to this: "During the whole of our tramp of eighteen miles, the three men carried loads on their backs weighing from fifty to one hundred and twenty pounds, and that too through places where it was enough for me to carry myself and gun; yet they never seemed exhausted, but walked with a firm, strong step to the last."

The following determinations will show some of the leading features of the Aino physique:—

Ijiri Aino.—

Shoulders square; breadth 17.25 inches.
Chest well formed, full.
Height 5 feet 4.25 inches.
Forehead well formed; breadth 5.5 inches; height 4 inches.
Eyebrows well developed and prominent.

Face (exclusive of forehead):

Facial angle 67°.
Height 5.25 inches.
Breadth 6.0 inches.
Cheek-bones high.
Eyes brown and dull.
Chin well formed, medium.

MATAIJI AINO.—

Shoulders rather square; breadth 16.2 inches.
Chest medium.
Height 5 feet 3.75 inches.
Forehead rather contracted and narrow in front; breadth 4.4 inches; height 4 inches.

FACE (exclusive of forehead):

Facial angle 74.30°.
Breadth 5.33 inches.
Height 5.5 inches.
Chin medium and well formed.
Cheek-bones rather prominent.
Eyebrows large and overhanging.
Eyes medium, dark brown and dull.

ENNOSKI AINO.—

Shoulders sloping; breadth 16.75 inches.
Chest medium.
Height 5 feet 2.75 inches.
Forehead broad in front; breadth 5 inches; height 4 inches.

FACE (exclusive of forehead):

Facial angle 73°.
Height 5.5 inches.
Breadth 5.5 inches.
Eyebrows poorly developed and flat.
Chin well formed and small.
Eyes large, dark-brown and rather bright.
Cheek-bones prominent.

UTTEGURU AINO.—

Shoulders square and well formed; breadth 17 inches.
Chest well developed.
Height 5 feet 5.25 inches.
Forehead narrow towards the front; height 4 inches, breadth 5.33 inches.

FACE (exclusive of forehead):

Facial angle 73°.
Breadth 5.33 inches.
Height 4.6 inches.
Chin small and rather retreating.
Cheek-bones prominent.
Eyebrows rather flat and poorly developed.
Eyes rather large, brown and dull.

NUBIAN AINO (Woman).—

Shoulders well formed; breadth 15.5 inches.
Height 4 feet 7.62 inches.
Forehead rather well formed; breadth 5.17 inches, height 3.67 inches.
Chin well developed.
Cheek-bones very prominent.
Eyebrows well formed, medium.
Facial angle 74.30°.

So many valuable data have been obtained by Mr. B. S. Lyman, that it seems desirable to introduce them here in his own words:—

"The average weight of the Ainos with their light clothing was 141 pounds, varying from 108 pounds—the boy—to 183 pounds—the ferryman. In general, their hair was thick, with a tendency to stand out all over the head. The forehead varied from low to high, commonly of middling height; it was always round. Their brows were always overhanging; their eyes commonly of middling size and always black; their cheekbones were rather high; their nose commonly with a very low bridge and with broad nostrils, was often turned up, but sometimes straight. Their mouth, lips and chin commonly hidden by the beard, seemed to be of middling character, the mouth not very small, the lips, as compared with Europeans, not unusually thick and the chin not very large, perhaps even rather small. Of those who had special compensation and were therefore bound to submit to anything, we took a number of other dimensions. Their average age was twenty-six, height 5.46 feet, and weight 161 pounds. Their heads measured on the average from front to back 0.68 feet; from side to side 0.55 feet, and from chin to crown or rather vertical height 0.77 foot; from chin to mouth 0.10 foot. The facial angle was taken very imperfectly but seemed to be about 65 degrees. The upper arm measured on the average 1.08 foot long; the forearm 0.83 foot; the hand from the wrist bone 0.66 foot; in all from shoulder to finger tips 2.57 feet, a rather unusual length, I believe, for Europeans of their height. The average length of the leg down from the hip bone—taken by mistake instead of the joint—was 3.10 feet or

probably the true length of the leg 2.70 feet, of which 1.14 was thigh and 1.56 feet, measured, foot and leg below the knee. The foot averaged 0.85 foot long by 0.37 foot wide, and the heel was always short. The shoulders averaged 1.46 feet in breadth, the neck 0.20 foot in length, the body from shoulders to hip bone 1.60 feet, or to the hip joint probably 2.00 feet. But their muscles were the most striking feature from their enormous size. The men seemed one mass of hard muscle, and in feeling for the hip bone I could not perceive it, even when they pointed out to me its place. Around the chest they measured on the average 2.99 feet; around the upper arm 1.04 feet; forearm, 0.97 foot; wrist, 0.56 foot; thigh, 1.76 feet; calf, 1.26 feet; ankle, 0.86 foot. A few other measurements were also taken, but probably less important ones."

The following detailed list is also from the same source :—

NAME.	AGE.	WEIGHT. POUNDS.	HEIGHT. FEET.
Chabo	36	135	4.80
Atashite	35	147	5.38
Taegato	35	136	5.28
Chilkamakura	33	133	5.07
Shinangura	33	150	5.49
Kusarengara	32	155	5.46
Ikuyange	27	142	5.53
Yoshimatsu	26	150	5.40
Shussa no Aino	25	184	5.74
Shokubashite	23	150	5.40
Huriranku	25	135	5.37
Patekuwengum	28	150	5.35
Idatsiba	28	137	5.22
Naoba	28	133	5.20
Jasnutoku	25	150	5.34
Pashikura	22	145	5.28
Yukyashito	21	133	5.22
Krotokura	16	142	5.29
Okonokara	40	142	5.22
Youde	34	128	5.06
Tetta	28	155	5.37
Nisago	26	128	5.33
Kinshuka	26	132	5.18
Fugari	25	137	5.11
Taro	23	132	5.05
Itakichari	13	108	5.16

From the facts thus obtained, we may fairly summarize the physical characteristics of the Ainos as follows.—

The forehead is usually high, though narrow; eyebrows heavy and overhanging; nose somewhat inclined to flatness, though but little more so than in Europeans; mouth wide, but well formed; chin well formed and medium size; eyes straight, brown and dull; cheekbones inclined to be prominent; facial angle high, the mean of our measurements giving an angle of 72°; the body is compact, well built and muscular; much more than ordinarily hairy; skin of light color, comparable to that of Europeans.

With regard to the ages given, it may be stated that the Ainos have no definite method of reckoning age, and it is exceedingly difficult to determine how old a man really is. The same standards according to which we would estimate age among our own people, will by no means apply here, and one is as likely to guess too much as too little. Thus most of the ages given are only approximations. In a few instances they seemed to be known with some degree of accuracy.

From the heights given it would appear that Davis' conclusion, based upon measurements of skeletons, "That the Ainos average not far from 5 feet 2 inches in height,"[1] is not very far from the actual truth, though it possibly falls a little below.

The Ainos from Saghalien and other Russian territory, are in some respects quite different from the Yezoines. In stature and general proportion of both men and women, there is no essential difference. Their hair is also worn long, but, unlike that of the Yezoines, it is not cut so squarely; it is also not so bushy, but falls more gracefully around the head and neck, while the ends frequently have a strong tendency to curl, and in both men and women it is usually neatly brushed and parted, much care frequently being displayed in this respect. Doubtless this, as many other striking departures from a more savage appearance, as common to their southern relations, is to be traced to the

[1] Man. Anthrop. Soc., iii. 366, etc.

influence of more intimate contact with civilizing influences. Whatever the cause, however, the result is a total disappearance of that extreme uncouthness which so impresses the stranger when first brought in contact with a Yezoine. The latter, however, are capable of the same change, as is amply proved by those Ainos of the Ishikari tribe, who spent some time at the Tokio schools. In their case, the removal of accumulated dirt and unkempt beard and hair, did much to reveal, in a fair skin and intelligent face, the natural good qualities they possessed.

One peculiarity which at once distinguishes the Saghalien Aino from the Yezoine, is the great or absence of beards, nor do they appear to have so hairy bodies generally. I have frequently seen Saghalien Ainos divested of their clothing, and their bodies were in no case more hairy than those of Europeans, and it seems highly probable that the great difference in hairiness, between these people and the Yezoines, is to be ascribed to their different conditions of life; the Saghalien usually being provided with plenty of warm clothing, furs, etc., while the Yezoine makes little or no change between his summer and winter clothing.

The skin is quite light and may very properly be compared with that of the Caucasian, the hue of which it very closely resembles. The foreheads are high but narrow, in some cases conspicuously so. The carriage of the men is active, and their general bearing and facial expression denote an intelligence much superior to that of the Yezoines; in fact, if we are to measure their mental ability by their achievements, then the Saghaliens must certainly be accounted the superior, for since their residence in Yezo they have applied themselves with success to various pursuits, including silk-weaving, boot-making, tanning, harness-making and several other industries in which the Yezo Aino does not or cannot engage. One or two have also become petty officials in the agricultural bureau, showing that they have capacities capable of improvement and expansion.

As one first encounters the Aino, their general appearance is by no means calculated to produce a favorable

impression, but rather as Wood remarks[1] "The uncouthness and wildness of their aspect is calculated at first to strike a stranger with dismay or repugnance." Upon closer examination, however, the forbidding exterior is largely lost sight of in view of their quiet demeanor and gentle though rude politeness which is so constantly manifested. In respect to external features, the Saghaliens produce a really favorable impression which is in very marked contrast to the feelings developed by contact with a Yezoine. It is hardly to be doubted, however, that this arises largely from the fact that the former are usually cleanly in appearance, while the bodies of the latter look as if water had never come in contact with them.

The opinion is sometimes expressed that the Japanese are an offshoot of the Ainos, but a critical examination of the pure types would not permit such a belief to be entertained. There is an undoubted mixture of Japanese and Ainos, as invariably occurs along the border line of contact between two distinct people, and this half-breed type is as easily recognized in those parts of northern Japan where it chiefly occurs, as it is in our own Northwest. The Japanese, however, are unquestionably Mongoloid, while the facts here stated not only show the Ainos to be physically distinct, but the accounts given by our best authorities all agree in the great resemblance which they bear to Europeans,—the prevailing view being that they are distinctly Aryan.